

For Immediate Release:

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Mayor and City Council Ask Residents for Ideas To Address San José's Budget Deficit

SAN JOSÉ – Faced with the seventh straight year of deficits in the City's operating budget, Mayor Chuck Reed and the San José City Council will be holding community meetings in every City Council district to hear from residents about the City's budget. San José faces a \$22.3 million shortfall in its General Fund (operating) budget for fiscal year 2008-'09.

"Our expenses continue to go up faster than our revenues. Over the next five years, San José's operating budget deficit is projected to total \$137 million," Mayor Reed said. "We are working hard to solve this structural budget deficit. It's important for residents to get involved and share their ideas for cutting costs, increasing revenues, and delivering services more efficiently."

The community budget meetings are new this year, following a direction outlined in the Mayor's March Budget Message and unanimously approved by the City Council. The Mayor's Budget Shortfall Advisory Group recommended further outreach to residents around the long-term challenges facing the City to receive input on ways to solve the structural budget deficit.

Mayor Reed has worked to open the City's annual budget process to public participation, including direction he outlined in the Reed Reforms that the City Council enacted in 2007 to "Change to a Community Based Budgeting Process." These reforms include: Starting the budget process with a survey of the public in early January; holding a Conference on Priorities with neighborhood associations in late January; holding a Council hearing in February to set priorities; and reporting the results in the Mayor's March Budget Message.

The community budget meetings offer an opportunity for residents throughout San José to learn more about the budget and share their ideas and concerns. The meetings are open to the public, held in the evenings and weekends to make it easy for residents to participate. They will be held in April and May throughout San José. In addition, the City Council will hold study sessions and public hearings in May and June before voting on the budget on June 17.

"We are required by law to have a balanced budget. It's important that the City Council hear from the people of San José as the choices we make to solve the structural budget deficit could have an impact on essential services such as police, fire, parks, and libraries," said Mayor Reed.

The community meetings are open to the public and will be held in April and May throughout San José. The District 6 meeting was held in March.

- Monday, April 7 at 7 p.m., District 1 (West San José), at Archbishop Mitty High School, 5000 Mitty Way.
- Wednesday, April 16 at 6:30 p.m., District 3 (Downtown), at San José City Hall – Wing Committee Rooms, 200 E. Santa Clara Street.
- Monday, April 21 at 6 p.m., District 4 (Berryessa), at Berryessa Community Center, 3050 Berryessa Road.
- Wednesday, April 30 6:30, District 5 (East San José), at Mexican Heritage Plaza, 1700 Alum Rock Avenue.
- Saturday, May 3 at 10 a.m., District 4 (Alviso) at Alviso Community & Youth Center, 5040 North First Street, San José
- Monday, May 5 at 6:30 p.m., District 2 (South San José/Blossom Valley), at Southside Community Center, 5585 Cottle Road.
- Wednesday, May 7 at 7 p.m., District 10 (Almaden) at Almaden Community Center, 6445 Camden Avenue.
- Thursday, May 8 at 6:30 p.m., District 9 (Cambrian) at Cambrian Branch Library, 1780 Hillsdale Avenue.
- Tuesday, May 27 at 6:30 p.m., District 8 (Evergreen) at Evergreen Branch Library, 2635 Aborn Road.
- Monday, May 19 at 6:30 p.m., District 7 (Central San José) at Hubbard Elementary School, 1745 June Avenue.

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